OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1987-88 as per reports received upto January, 1988, 38066 problem villages have been provided with safe drinking water facilities. These include habitations and villages covered partially.

(c) During the year 1988-89 it is envisaged to provide drinking water facilities to 32698 problem villages. In addition, 18,500 partially covered villages are likely to be covered fully.

Rehabilitation of bonded labour

461. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official and authentic survey of the bonded labour in the country has been done;

(b) if so, what is the total number of bonded labourers in the country;

(c) what is the number, out of them, of those who have been identified and of those who have been rehabilitated; and

(d) what is the number of cases and the number of individuals connected therewith, which are pending in the Supreme Court and other courts in which voluntary agencies have requested for adequate relief for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers and what is Government's stand in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The estimates of total number of bonded labour in the country vary significantly. As per the survey made by Gandhi Peace Foundation in 1978 the number of bonded labour estimated was 26.17 lakhs whereas as per the estimates of National Sample Survey Organisation during the 32nd round of survey in 1977-78 the number of bonded labourers was 3.45 lakhs. The methodology adopted by Gandhi Peace Foundation was not scientific. The methodology adopted by the National Sample Survey Organisation also had some limitations. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 the identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labour is the rsponsibility of the concerned State Governments. As per the reports received from the State Governments as on 31st December, 1987, 2,21,606 bonded labourers have been identified out of which 1,94,604 have been rehabilitated.

(d) Identification release and rehabilitation of bonded labour is the responsibility of the State Governments. Therefore, information in this regard is not maintained by the Central Government.

State Governments have been advised that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour should be integrated with the other anti-poverty programmes to ensure effective rehabilitation of bonded labour.

A new plan scheme for involvement of voluntary agencies in identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour has also been introduced.